

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Garland: Apart from the offering of mortgages for sale in this particular month could the minister tell us—

Mr. Walker: Would the hon. gentleman wait just a moment until the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation experts arrive? I ask the hon. member to do so because I always consider his questions very sincerely, particularly in regard to housing.

The Chairman: Does the hon. member for Nipissing not consider his question more appropriate under vote No. 601, because it seems to me that vote 373 has specific reference to the construction of married quarters?

Mr. Garland: I am in the hands of the chairman.

The Chairman: I just asked the hon. member whether he thought it would be more convenient to discuss this subject under vote No. 601.

Mr. Regier: Mr. Chairman, I think it has been the commonly accepted practice during the discussion of the first item of a division to allow hon. members to refer to over-all policy, and I believe that practice would be desirable at this time, unless the minister objects.

The Chairman: The first item concerns the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and its operations, and it seemed to me that vote No. 373 had reference to a specific subject.

Mr. Walker: Mr. Chairman, I was under the impression that the first item of the estimates of the Department of Public Works, which includes this vote in respect to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the national capital commission, was the item under which discussions of a general nature should be carried on. At that time questions in respect to housing were raised which we tried our best to answer. I do not want to curtail the debate, but my respectful suggestion is, we should follow the practice of last year, by which special subjects are dealt with during the discussion on the vote concerned.

The Chairman: The only reason I made my earlier suggestion was because it seemed to me that this item concerned a specific subject.

Mr. Garland: I shall be glad to follow the suggestion of the chairman.

(Translation):

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should have dealt with this a little earlier, but there is one suggestion I should like to make before we go on to the problems relating to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The Department of Public Works is certainly the department which has the most

[Mr. Walker.]

frequent contacts with the people. It is the department which is probably most often approached by hon. members who wish to discuss problems of local interest. I think the suggestion I have to make to the minister is of some value, and I am sure it will meet with the approval—

The Chairman: Order. Has the hon. member understood the ruling I made a moment ago to the effect that problems generally related to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation should be discussed under item 374, in view of the fact that item 373 deals with a very special case.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, my suggestion has nothing to do with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I wanted to bring it forward before we started on item 373, and the floor was given to the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Garland).

The Chairman: If it has no connection with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, it would certainly have no connection with item 373.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, I rose when item 372 was called, and at that time, the hon. member for Nipissing rose and asked for the floor and started to discuss Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The Chairman: The hon. member for Nipissing rose when item 373 was called.

Mr. Fortin: But when you called 372, Mr. Chairman, I rose to ask for the floor.

The Chairman: Well, if the remarks of the hon. member have to do with item 372, I might ask the committee whether the hon. member is allowed to raise his point.

Mr. Fortin: I will come back to it later, Mr. Chairman—

(Text):

The Chairman: It appears that the hon. gentleman wishes to discuss item 372 and that the committee is agreeable to his reverting to that item.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

(Translation):

Mr. Fortin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said at the beginning that my suggestion should have been made earlier. Now, since item 372 is the last departmental estimate before those of the corporations I would like to make my suggestion at this stage, since I could not do so earlier. It does not directly concern item 372, I admit. The suggestion I intended to make to the Minister of Public Works was that, because of the ever increasing importance of his department, I believe, he should consider the possibility of appointing,